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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1963

ARTHUR LUCAS

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this 1963 Annual Report, my fifteenth for the Brackley Rural District, I am pleased to state that the health of the inhabitants and the condition under which they are living are good.

No epidemic of infectious disease arose and there were no cases of Poliomyelitis. Measles was the most frequent infection, so it is hoped in the near future that immunisation now being tried will wipe out measles or at least reduce it as has been done in the case of Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis

Housing and sewerage have now practically been completed in all our villages and as a Rural District can compare with any.

Mr. Turbitt has mentioned the litter left by motorists and others at the roadside and I can agree from personal observation that their habits have not improved with their affluence.

It is good to record at the time of writing this that a refuse collection of seven to eight days is proving a great success. The time is coming when a central point for incineration will be required for a number of districts together.

I have pleasure in thanking the Public Health Committee and their Chairman for their great interest in this Department. Mr. Turbitt and Mr. Caley have again worked hard and in spite of building inspection growing have so far not neglected their Public Health duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.
23rd July, 1964.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

F. T. Kiildsen, Esq., J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

L. C. Bartlett, Esq.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. L. S. Prosser (Chairman), Mr. L. F. Warren (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. I. S. Forrest, Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward, Messrs. E. A. Edmunds, P. W. Henn, F. Mason, Rev. R. J. Rowbury, E. J. Smart and J. A. C. Thornycroft.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health :

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., County Hall, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Telephone No. Northampton 34833.

Also holds appointments of :—

Medical Officer of Health in Brackley Borough; Towcester R.D.C., Northampton R.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Northamptonshire County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Additional Public Health Inspector :

N. R. Caley, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors :

Miss C. R. Reynolds.

Rodent Operative :

W. G. Bartlett.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1963

Area in acres	58,132
Population	11,650
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1963	3,631
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1963	£230,528
Product of a penny rate at 1st April, 1963	£1,043

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	Brackley (per 1000 population)	Northamp- tonshire	England & Wales
Legitimate	202	102	100			
Illegitimate	9	4	5			
				18.1	18.2	18.62
Total	211	106	105			

Stillbirths

Legitimate	2	1	1			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				9.3 (per 1,000 births)	17.3	15.57

Total	2	1	1
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Deaths	105	56	49	(per 1'000 population) 9.0	12.2	11.21
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Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Infant Mortality

Legitimate	2	1	1			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				(per 1,000 live births) 18.4	20.9	17.92
Total	2	1	1			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
„ „ Measles	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ „ Infectious Diseases	8
„ „ Tuberculosis	Nil

The registered causes of death were :

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	3	—	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	4	11
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system...	5	3	8
18. Coronary diseases, angina	14	13	27
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20. Other heart diseases	8	6	14
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	3	5
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	6	2	8
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	6	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicidal and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	56	49	105

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream, water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. This most useful and efficient service is under the control of Dr. W. H. H. Jebb to whom I am indebted.

(b) **Nursing in The Home**

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible. Some fairly full information on the latest development in the home nursing service may be seen upon reference to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) **Clinic and Treatment Centres**

Infant Welfare—Brackley		
Orthopædic Clinic	} Cottage Hospital Brackley	} Organised by County Council
Vision Clinic		
Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney, King's Sutton and Helmdon.		

(d) **Blind Persons**

Incidence of blindness is reported upon in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) **Tuberculosis**

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) **Dental Treatment**

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) **Epileptics and Spastics**

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

(h) **Domiciliary Services**

Details are included in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Generally.

Progress has continued throughout the year in all branches relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area and except for the important announcement that the Council as from the beginning of next year are aiming at a weekly collection of house refuse I have nothing to add to the favourable remarks made on this subject in my 1962 Report. The fact that the population of the area increases yearly confirms what I have said in previous reports that this is now a desirable district in which to live. Good sanitary services have been the fundamental inducement in the increase in building of Council and Private houses.

Drainage and Sanitation.

With the progressive provision of new sewers and sewage disposal works in each village, the number of dwellings which are now provided with water-borne sanitation continues to increase. However it is known that some tenanted dwellings are still without water-closets and other facilities even though public sewers have been provided within reasonable distance of the properties.

At the time of writing this report a Housing Bill has been introduced in Parliament which is hoped will enable the owners of this type of property or the Council to effect better housing conditions.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

Continuing progress is being made in providing satisfactory sewers and sewage disposal works in each village and during the year work to provide these amenities commenced in Aston-le-Walls, Sulgrave and Thorpe Mandeville. By the end of the year the contract at Upper and Lower Boddington was almost completed and plans for re-sewering Evenley, Eydon and Whitfield were well advanced. The position at the end of 1963 is shown in the following tables.

Place	New Sewers	New Sewage Disposal Works
Aston le Walls	Work in progress	Work in progress
Aynho	Completed	Deferred
Boddington	Work in progress	Work in progress
Chacombe	Completed	Completed
Charlton	Deferred	Deferred
Chipping Warden	Completed	Completed
Croughton	Completed	Completed
Crowfield	Completed	Deferred
Culworth	Completed	Completed
Evenley	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Eydon	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Farthinghoe	Completed	Completed
Greatworth	Completed	Completed
Helmdon	Completed	Completed
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	Deferred	Deferred
Kings Sutton	Completed	Completed
Marston St. Lawrence	Deferred	Deferred
Middleton Cheney		
(Lower)	Completed	Completed
Middleton Cheney		
(Upper)	35% Completed	Deferred
Moreton Pinkney	Completed	Completed
Overthorpe	Completed	Completed
Radstone	Deferred	Deferred
Sulgrave	Work in progress	Work in progress
Syresham	Completed	Completed
Thorpe Mandeville	Work in progress	Work in progress
Whitfield	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared

Summary

	Number of Villages Sewers	Sewage Disposal Works
Schemes being prepared or work in hand	8	7
Completed 	14	12
Deferred 	4	7
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 26

Water Supply (Regional Scheme).

Throughout the year a careful check has been made on the condition of the water supplied to this district by the Bucks Water Board. This entailed the taking of 150 samples for bacteriological examination (52 from schools) and 2 samples for chemical analysis. It will be noticed that 5 of the samples were unsatisfactory from the bacteriological aspect and in each case prompt check samples were taken by your officials and the Board when it was found that the contamination had cleared. This kind of trouble is experienced each year and the reason for it neither your officials nor the Board are able conclusively to explain. It would appear to be a local and transient contamination which nevertheless gives rise for concern and ought not to exist in a public water supply. Complaints are sometimes heard concerning an alleged excess of chlorine in the water.

The sufficiency of the supply, as in previous years, was satisfactorily maintained.

Bacteriological examinations of raw water and of the water going into supply after treatment is carried out by the Bucks Water Board.

Raw water samples taken by the Board totalled 299 and coliform organisms were present in 297 samples of which 280 were of faecal origin. The Board also took 299 samples of treated water only one of which showed the presence of coliform of non faecal origin.

The water enters the district at the parish of Evenley where a check sample is usually taken at the time that a series of samples are taken elsewhere in the area.

It possesses no plumbo-solvent action and at the time of writing no fluoride is added.

Whenever contamination is discovered through sampling the consumers are warned to boil the water until satisfactory check samples are obtained. The Water Board is immediately informed of any contamination and they too act promptly by themselves investigating and sampling and are in fact always most anxious and willing to co-operate with us.

The number of dwellinghouses and the number of the population supplied from the public water mains is as shown in the following table. In most cases the supply is taken inside the houses and only in a few cases is water supplied by means of a stand-pipe.

Parish	Dwellinghouses	Population
Aston-le-Walls	49	180
Aynho	155	465
Boddington	127	340
Chacombe	94	310
Chipping Warden	129	423
Croughton	140	963
Culworth	128	398
Edgecote	private supply	76
Evenley	122	377
Eydon	114	335
Farthinghoe	98	351
Greatworth	122	532
Helmdon	190	481
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	30	94
King's Sutton	486	1,552
Marston St. Lawrence	61	184
Middleton Cheney	608	1,786
Moreton Pinkney	97	256
Newbottle	115	376
Radstone	17	73
Sulgrave	128	335
Syresham	155	652
Thenford	19	83
Thorpe Mandeville	34	136
Warkworth	13	40
Whitfield	43	156
	<hr/> 3,274 <hr/>	<hr/> 10,954 <hr/>

Water Samples :

Details of samples of mains water taken in 1963 and results of bacteriological examinations thereof are :—

PARISH or VILLAGE	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	4	—	4
Aynho	5	—	5
Upper Boddington	4	—	4
Lower Boddington	6	1	7
Chacombe	4	—	4
Chipping Warden	4	—	4
Croughton	4	—	4
Crowfield	2	—	2
Culworth	4	—	4
Evenley	16	1	17
Eydon	4	—	4
Farthinghoe	5	—	5
Greatworth	5	—	5
Halse	4	—	4
Helmdon	3	—	3
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	7	1	8
Kings Sutton	9	1	10
Marston St. Lawrence	5	—	5
Middleton Cheney	10	—	10
Moreton Pinkney	4	—	4
Newbottle	5	—	5
Overthorpe	7	1	8
Radstone	3	—	3
Sulgrave	4	—	4
Syresham	3	—	3
Thenford	4	—	4
Thorpe Mandeville	2	—	2
Warkworth	5	—	5
Whitfield	3	—	3
	145	5	150

Private Water Supplies.

As in previous years requests are occasionally made for private water supplies to be sampled. The source of these supplies is from springs or wells where the water usually receives no treatment. Of the 11 samples taken 7 were found to be unsatisfactory and in such cases advice was given, where practicable, to connect to the mains supply or alternatively to chlorinate the water.

There were 2 samples taken for chemical analysis and the Analysts' reports are as follows, viz. :—

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37, Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

4th February, 1963.

Ref. RKC/ET/W.64

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 29th January, 1963.

From : W. E. Turbitt.

Description :—Water from Skaigh House, Evenley.
Bucks Water Board—Main Supply.

Appearance.—Bright, few large particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·03
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·05
Chlorine in Chlorides	44·5
Nitrate Nitrogen	3·4
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours ...	0·7
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	385
Nitrite Nitrogen	0·003
pH	7·6
Free Chlorine	Absent
Radioactivity	—
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	556 micromhos

The above results show that this water is organically of good quality, and subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination suitable for use as a Public Supply.

There was, however, no free chlorine in this sample.

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37 Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

5th July, 1963.

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 3rd July, 1963.

From : W. E. Turbitt.

Description :—Sample of Water from tap at Skaigh House,
Evenley. 3/7/63.

Appearance, Bright, few small particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.12
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.18
Chlorine in Chlorides	39.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.3
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	0.40
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	395
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
pH	7.8
Free Chlorine	0.03
Radioactivity	—
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	546 micromhos

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality, and similar in characteristics to the samples examined in 1960 and 1961.

The sample contained a trace of free chlorine and if the bacteriological results remain satisfactory it would, in its present condition be safe for use for drinking purposes.

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

Caravans and Camping Sites.

The number of caravan sites has not varied much since the previous year. Actually there are now 15 sites under licence involving 19 caravans. In respect to 4 other sites exemptions were claimed and granted in accordance with the Act. In 4 cases the caravans moved away from the sites and licences have accordingly been cancelled. There are 3 sites which were refused planning permission by the County Council and therefore are not licensed by this authority. It is the duty of the Planning Authority to take appropriate action in such cases but at the time of drafting this report each of these sites is still occupied by caravans.

Without exception the caravans now on licensed sites are of a good type and well maintained by the people who occupy them. Apart from those caravans remaining without planning approval no trouble has been experienced throughout the year.

From time to time Gypsies appear in the district and set up camps with their caravans on the roadside grass verges. Most of these people give no trouble and the time they stay is usually for brief periods only.

As distinct from the Gypsies or Romanies an often undesirable type of camper is occasionally found camping along the roadside who are classed as Didicois. Their vans are usually of a poor type whilst some use only a form of tent. Often these individuals are found sorting over rags and other articles which they have acquired by delving through refuse tips. In fact they frequently camp near these tips and I suspect that the articles which they salvage and sort over are sold to the marine stores dealers in the nearby town of Banbury. It is these people who not infrequently leave their camping grounds strewn with litter to the detriment of the beauty of our country lanes. Also they may partly be responsible for the increasing quantity of refuse and litter which is appearing along the hedgerows on the perimeter of many of our villages.

Another form of camping has recently presented itself and is fast increasing and creating problems to many local authorities including our own Council. This is caused by motorists who stay on lay-bys and in beauty spots in the countryside. Whilst some motorists stay only for short periods in order to partake of picnic meals or to rest a while when travelling to some definite place of destination others stay in these places overnight or even for longer periods before

moving on. During their stay too many of these motorists would appear to act irresponsibly in dealing with their refuse, for only too frequently the lay-bys and stopping places are littered with paper, empty tins, cartons, bottles and discarded food. The unsightliness and unpleasantness which this sort of behaviour causes is especially accentuated after any public holiday. As the number of motor cars on the road is likely to increase in future years so is this problem going to become even more acute. As very few, if any, lay-bys are provided with toilet facilities such places are fast becoming focal points of potential infection. Discarded food is sure to attract rats. Most lay-bys are provided with litter bins which quickly become full to overflowing when they are used by the thoughtful motorist. The provision and emptying of the bins is often a burden to the local council.

Surely the time has arrived when this nationwide problem must be faced and tackled by the provision of adequate storage facilities and the frequent collection of such refuse; taking severe action against persons found to be abusing these facilities and even the provision of suitable toilet facilities. Some authorities are, of course, much more seriously affected by this problem than others.

Schools.

The number of visits made to schools coincidentally was the same as last year, i.e., 97. Most of these visits were concerned with the sampling of school milk and drinking water. There were 42 milk samples taken all of which were found to be satisfactory. The 52 water samples obtained were also found satisfactory. The condition of the schools generally is still of a fairly good standard. It was announced this morning, both over the radio and in the national newspapers that the Government proposes to spend some £87,000,000 on the provision of new schools in parts of the country.

Shops and Offices.

An important new Act concerning the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these premises comes into operation during 1964. It is the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

Certain sections of the Act, including the registration of premises begins on the 1st May this year. Most of the main

provisions will come into force on the following 1st August.

Most places where people are employed in carrying out work in shops and offices will become the concern of public health departments whose officers will be required to carry out inspections of premises to ascertain that they are kept clean, free from overcrowding, kept at a reasonable temperature, properly ventilated and lighted, provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences and washing facilities; a supply of wholesome drinking water and accommodation for the hanging and drying of personal clothing not worn during working hours. The protection of machinery against possible injury to the workers is an important provision of the Act which will be administered by H.M. Factory Inspectors. Precautions against injury from fire and means of escape in case of fire will in the main be the responsibility of the Fire Authorities.

Smoke Abatement.

It was unnecessary to take any action in this respect during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Unfortunately they are non-existent in this rural area. In the neighbouring Boroughs of Banbury and Brackley there are swimming pools which attract a proportion of the rural population. The remainder of our swimmers have to resort to the local brook or pond where especially in the case of children unable to swim or are poor swimmers there is some risk of drowning or taking in polluted water with possible consequent illness.

Verminous Premises.

No action necessary.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of household refuse is supervised by the Engineer and Surveyor and the staff under his control perform this onerous task to the satisfaction of the Council and the ratepayers.

Collection takes place at fortnightly intervals but by the

beginning of 1964 it is hoped to put into operation a rotational collection scheme which might well reduce the period of collection to a week or thereabouts. This would be a great boon to householders and an achievement so far as public health requirements are concerned.

The refuse is collected by means of modern hygienic vehicles and it does considerably assist in the time factor if the size and type of storage bin is standardised and I have no doubt that measures will be taken to achieve this.

Disposal of the refuse is by tipping and for this purpose the refuse is conveyed to tips situate at Greatworth, Moreton Pinkney and Hinton-in-the-Hedges.

Factories Act 1961.

Notifications of the establishment of 2 additional factories was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. The number of factories now on the register is 16. There were no deletions from the register made during the year. The number of inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors was 29, including visits to outworkers premises.

Part VIII of the Act.

Notice of 7 Outworkers was received from the Boroughs of Banbury and Brackley in which areas the factories are situated who employ persons residing in this district who carry out work in their homes usually in a spare time capacity. The nature of the work which these persons do is (a) soap packing and (b) the manufacturing of foundations and surgical supports.

The homes of these Outworkers have been visited and in each case found suitable for the nature of the work done there and the local authorities notifying these workers also have been advised accordingly.

**Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961,
for the year 1963.**

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	27	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	16	29	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits to Premises during 1963.

Inspections—Housing Act	94
Re-inspection	163
Inspections—Public Health Act	118
Notices served	5
Re-inspected	56
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	12
No. of complaints received	147
Food Notices served	8
Food Notices complied with	11
Factory Inspections	29
Factory Notices served	1
Factory Notices complied with	1
Building Inspections	921
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	60
Noise Abatement	—
Inspections of Drainage Works	56

Visits to:—

Butcher's Shops	106
Bakehouses	28
Fishmongers	4
Dairies and Milkshops	18
Public Houses	143
Provision Shops	177
Greengrocers	4
Ice Cream Places	70
Cafes and Caterers	46
Schools and School Canteens	90
Infectious Disease enquiries	25
Petroleum Stores	20
Miscellaneous	13
Caravans	30
Agricultural Premises	4

Summary of Complaints Received—1963.

Complaints made in writing, by telephone or verbally during the year totalled 132 and concerned the following matters, viz. :—

Drainage, sewerage, and sanitation	41
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	12
Insanitary dwellings	4
Insect pests	6
Nuisance from keeping animals	6
General housing defects	11
Water Supply	1
Noise Nuisance	2
Rats and Mice	62
Food and Milk	2
Total	147

**Statement of Housing Repairs or Improvements
dealt with during the Year 1963.**

	Number of Houses
Completely reconditioned as a result of statutory action	
by the Council	9
New drainage systems and water-closets installed ...	37
Sundry repairs and improvements carried out after service of notice	10

Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1936

Offensive accumulations removed	12
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	6
Insect pests	6
Drainage and Sewerage Defects	33

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

It can be now stated that Slum Clearance is no longer a serious problem in this District; even so there are still 90 sub-standard houses remaining on the Slum Clearance programme and these will be dealt with as and when they become vacant.

Past experience has shown that, whenever possible, unfit houses are reconditioned rather than demolished and it is estimated that of these 90 houses about 80 are worthy of being reconditioned. The Council have helped considerably by giving sympathetic consideration to applicants for Improvement Grants.

The foregoing remarks relate to dwellings which have been classified as "unfit for habitation." The standard of unfitness is governed by the Housing Acts and this standard is indeed a lowly one. We are living in an age of unprecedented well-being for the majority of the inhabitants of these Islands and yet there is a disgraceful number of houses still without a bath and supply of hot water on tap. It is high time the housing standard was raised to an up-to-date level and that local authorities were given power to require **all** houses to be brought up to this standard.

Improvement Grants.

The Council approved a total of 31 Housing Grants during the year, i.e., 13 Discretionary Grants and 18 Standard Grants. This is a decrease of 18 on the previous year.

New Dwellings (Council Houses).

The Council completed 21 dwelling units at Middleton Cheney and 6 at Sulgrave.

The dwellings at Cheyney Court, Middleton Cheney are for aged people being 12 flats, 8 bungalows and a Warden's flat.

At the end of the year 22 dwellings were under construction at Bull Baulk (Bowman Close) and 4 dwellings at Church End, Syresham.

The reconditioning of some dilapidated cottages at Aynho was completed during the year and 3 excellent dwelling units were evolved which preserve the architectural amenities of this important corner of the village.

Private Enterprise Houses.

The total number of new dwellings completed in 1963 was 111 as against 75 in 1962. At the end of the year a further 128 dwellings were under construction.

Building Inspection.

A total of 921 Building Inspections were made during the year as against 1,086 in 1962. It will be recollected that the Public Health Inspectors were requested by the Council to take over this work which previously was the responsibility of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

TABLE "A"

"Slum Clearance" Programme.

(Number of houses unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable expense.)

	At 31st Aug., 1955	At 31st Dec., 1963
Houses subject to existing Housing Act Orders :—		
Clearance Orders	71	2
Demolition Orders Closing Orders and Undertakings ...	24	71
Dwellings demolished and dwell- ings reconditioned :—		
Houses demolished	—	155
Huts demolished	—	66
Houses reconditioned and made fit for habitation	—	129
Number of dwellings scheduled for future action under the Housing Acts :—		
Ex-Wartime hutments	66	—
Houses	336	90

TABLE "B"

"Slum Clearance"—Action taken in 1963

	Number of Dwellings
Demolished	6
Closed (Closing Orders and Undertakings) ...	7
Reconditioned and made fit for habitation ...	9
Demolition Orders made	6

TABLE "C".
Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses).

PARISHES	Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position						Post-war Housing Programme					
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930. Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.		Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Private houses acquired and reconditioned	Houses Completed	Total No. of Houses owned by Council.
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	30	35
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	2	—	—	—	21	27
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	—	—	21	38
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45
Croughton	6	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	19	27
Culworth	6	—	5	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	42
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Eydon	8	—	—	4	—	12	4	—	—	—	9	21
Farthinghoe	2	—	6	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	20	30
Greatworth	8	—	8	—	—	16	12	—	—	—	29	45
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	59	—	—	—	33	49
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	—	—	—	—	181	247
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	—	11	17
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	50	—	22	—	167	239
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	50	—	—	—	27	45
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	—	—	—	2	23	39
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	—	—	4	—	33	71
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
TOTAL	112	4	76	154	4	350	182	—	26	7	733	1090

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises Generally.

Because of the considerable time devoted by the Public Health Inspectors to all places where food is manufactured, stored and sold, the general standard of such premises is satisfactory.

There are, however, a few food premises which require more visiting than the majority. These are usually owned by persons who either through being indifferent, understaffed or short of money are inclined to neglect their premises.

In last years report I commented at some length on the personal habits of some food handlers and have therefore little more to say about this. Smoking and finger licking seem to be the most persistent bad habits. To stop these habits on the part of the perpetrator may be difficult. So far as the official is concerned the remedy is either to educate or punish by legal proceedings. In this district we prefer the former way.

Frozen Foods.

As the majority of Food Vendors in this district are now retailing quick-frozen foods, a circular letter has been sent to all food traders setting forth a handling code for those engaged in the retailing of such foods. This code is recommended by the National Association of Frozen Food Producers. The letter stressed (a) that the storage cabinet should maintain a constant air temperature of 0°F. taken just below the load line (b) regular servicing, (c) daily temperature checks, (d) weekly defrosting and keeping inner walls of cabinet clean and clear of ice, (e) contents not to be stacked above cabinet load line, (f) new stocks to be placed in cabinet immediately, (g) packages should be preserved intact up to the time of purchase by consumer, (h) non-frozen and any unwrapped foods should not be stored in cabinets, (i) stocks should carefully be rotated to ensure that earliest deliveries are sold first and (j) never should a temperature above 5°F. be allowed.

Bearing in mind the considerable quantity of quick frozen food which is consumed these days it is important that the consumer should receive it in the best possible condition.

By this method of food preservation and storage practically any food can be obtained out of season. Roast turkey in June or strawberries and cream on Christmas Day are two delicious examples.

Public Houses or Inns.

With the co-operation of the Brewery Companies much improvement has been effected at these places. Only one premises is without waterborne toilets and it is hoped that this will be improved in the near future when proposed new sewerage facilities are available. Quite a number of the Licensees are enjoying the facilities of a bathroom and it is our aim that all should have this essential amenity. Country pubs can be fascinating places of entertainment but most people who frequent them in these days object to a privy closet or the use of contaminated water which might well "poison the whisky." Also there is the added risk when washing glasses with such water. All public houses in this district are provided with mains water and, without exception, hot water too which is laid on to each bar for washing glasses. When country pubs are provided with amenities usually found in towns many more people will visit them even than at present and what could be more pleasant than spending a countryside holiday with headquarters at the local Inn.

Ice Cream.

The number of places where this commodity is sold is now 40, mainly at food shops in addition to 4 cafes and 2 public houses. All premises are quite suitable and licensed. Practically all of the ice cream is sold in wrappers or cartons thus reducing possible contamination to a minimum. Any itinerant vendor trading in this district is likely to be stopped by your Inspectors and his vehicle inspected to see if it complies with the Regulations. It has been necessary to point out minor contraventions and in some cases a letter to their own Public Health Authority is sometimes a helpful course to pursue.

The number of samples taken and subjected to the methylene blue test was 60 as against 63 last year. The result of this testing was :

55 placed in grade 1
3 placed in grade 2
1 placed in grade 3
1 placed in grade 4

It may be the reason for the grade 4 bad sample that the vendor had been negligent in rotating his stock. He had shown negligence in this respect on several previous occasions. After persuading him to destroy remaining old stock he was suitably admonished for his carelessness.

Milk Supply.

There are 11 licensed local milk distributors, 2 more than last year, in addition to others who come in from outside this district. Apart from requiring, in some cases, the name and address to be inscribed on the delivery vehicles no contravention of the Milk Regulations occurred. The vehicles of all the distributors are from time to time inspected to see if they are in a clean condition and otherwise conform to the requirements of the Regulations.

During the year a total of 53 samples (39 in 1962) were taken, viz :—

21 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)
3 Tuberculin Tested
29 Pasteurised

A large proportion of the samples, actually 41, were obtained from schools within the district.

No specific complaint was received by the Department concerning milk during this year.

The attention of the appropriate authority was drawn to a milk producer in this area, the condition of whose premises appeared sub-standard. Milk producers premises, as against distributors premises, have for many years now not been the responsibility of local authorities.

Because of a case of Brucellosis, 3 samples of bulked milk were taken and subjected to a 6 week guinea pig inoculation tests for the presence of brucella abortus. The test proved negative.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 16).

It is butchers' premises and places where ice cream is sold which are required to be registered under this Act. Of the former there are still 10 premises and 40 of the latter premises.

Meat Inspection.

No inspection at the time of slaughter of food animals is done in the district as there are no slaughterhouses in operation. All meat sold in this area is obtained from outside sources where it first received adequate inspection. Nevertheless a watchful eye is kept on all meat exposed for sale in our shops.

Food Inspection (other than meat).

As will be seen from a reference to detailed inspections made at food premises much attention is paid to the retailing of food and many visits are made in this connection. Apart from a very small quantity of fruit and vegetables which had to be condemned the food for sale in our shops was of good quality and well displayed.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

It will be remembered that this duty is performed by the County Council. The reason for sampling the various articles mentioned in the following schedule being to find out whether the foods or drugs are what they are purported to be and free from adulteration.

SAMPLES TAKEN IN BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR, 1963

Milk	30
Meat Products	3
Fish Products	3
Ice Cream	3
Jam	2
Fruit and Vegetables	3
Soft Drinks	1
Spirits	2
Butter	2
Cake	1
Cheese	2
Condiments	1
Almond Marzipan	1
Pastes	2
<hr/>	
Total	56
<hr/>	

Remarks.—All the samples taken were
completely satisfactory

Paratyphoid B, type Taunton.

Since the beginning of the year outbreaks of this disease occurred firstly in Edinburgh, in the Sutton, Cheam and Carshalton area, in the Cambridge and Huntingdon district and in York.

During the month of May it was learned that 2 cases had occurred in Moulton and 1 in Duston in this county.

Approximately one half of the total cases were in young people and associated with eating cream pastry and cakes.

These were usually traced to bakeries in which Chinese bulked egg products were known to be used. Sampling these products did not show paratyphoid B organisms but other salmonella were isolated. Although a causal association with Chinese bulked egg was not proven it was necessary to take precautions and the four bakeries in our area were promptly visited by your health officials when it was found that no Chinese egg products were being used.

Details of the Various Food Premises in the District

Nature of Business	No. in District or on Register	No. of Visits during year
General Provision Stores ...	50	177
Butchers' Shops	10	106
Dining and Tea Rooms	4	46
Public Houses or Inns	34	143
Bakehouses	3	28
Milk Distributors	11	18
Ice Cream Premises	40	70
Fish Fryers or Fish Shops ...	1	4

Details of Repairs and Improvements to Food Premises.

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	7
--------------------------------	---

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Repaired	1
Structural Alterations	1
Redecorated Internally	5

Cafés and Public Houses

Toilets improved	5
Repaired	3
Apparatus and Utensils cleaned or improved	2
Structural alterations made	2
Bar Sink provided	1
Redecorated internally	3

SECTION F.

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A sharp rise occurred in the number of infectious cases notified, i.e., 185 as against 25 in the previous year which was mainly due to an outbreak of measles occurring during the summer months of April to August.

In the previous year there were 5 cases of infective hepatitis and 9 more cases occurred during this year the last case being notified in August. This disease has been added to the list of notifiable diseases in Northamptonshire.

Food Poisoning	}	No cases notified during the year.
Enteric Fever		
Puerperal Fever		
Poliomyelitis		

Scarlet Fever.—There were 2 cases affecting children.

Sonnei Dysentery.—Notifications of 3 cases received.

Measles.—There were 160 cases notified.

It was unnecessary to admit any of the patients into isolation hospital.

Like last year no case of poliomyelitis has occurred which is very gratifying. Neither was any food poisoning notified.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
During the year, 1963.

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning (suspected)	Erysipelas	Infective Hepatitis	Totals
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Boddington	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chacombe	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	19
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Croughton	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Culworth	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	5
Eydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farthinghoe	—	1	—	5	8	—	—	—	—	14
Greatworth	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	3	25
Helmdon	—	—	—	25	2	—	—	—	—	27
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	4
Kings Sutton	—	—	1	29	—	—	—	—	—	30
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Middleton Cheney	—	2	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	22
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newbottle/Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Syresham	2	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	11
Thenford	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	3	1	160	10	—	—	—	9	185

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis)

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	8	9	—	5	—	8	3	4	7	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	1	3	1	4	1	3	4	1
Erysipelas	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	4	338	—	105	111	108	36	234	3	160
Whooping Cough	15	46	—	17	3	17	5	3	—	10
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	9
Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	8	4	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	6	—	7	1	—	—	3
Suspected Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—

**Period Distribution of Notified Cases of
Infectious Diseases—1963**

A statement showing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	—	1	2	15	12	60	30	36	1	1	1	1	160
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	7	—	—	10
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	2	—	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	9
Total	—	3	4	17	16	63	30	39	2	9	1	1	185

Tuberculosis.

Age Incidence of New Cases during 1963

		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods					
Years		Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1		—	—	—	—
1 — 5		—	—	—	—
5 — 15		—	—	—	—
15 — 25		—	—	—	—
25 — 35		—	—	—	—
35 — 45		—	—	—	—
45 — 65		—	—	—	—
65 and over		1	—	—	—
Total		1	—	—	—

Total cases on the Register at the end of the year is 65 a decrease of 1 male and 4 females and are classified as follows :—

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
23	22	12	8	35	30

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Details of these figures are now only given in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

RODENT CONTROL

As anticipated, the onset of winter coincided with an increase in the number of requests for the assistance for Mr. Bartlett, your Rodent Operative. This year he reported fairly heavy infestations often occurring "overnight" and he stated that he had never known a busier time.

There appeared to be no apparent reason for these unusually large infestations. It may be that the unprecedented severity of the previous winter had destroyed some of the rat's enemies and competitors and left him a clear field. Mr. Bartlett dealt with all these infestations with his usual skill and perseverance and only in a few cases was it necessary to repeat treatment of a property.

The rodenticide mainly used by the Rodent Operative is warfarin mixed with oatmeal. This has been proved to be very effective and is relatively harmless to other animals although, of course, great care is taken in the protecting and siting of baits. The use of fluoroacetimide is now officially advocated in the baiting of sewers for rats. However, this is a most dangerous chemical and there appears at present to be no antidote to its poisoning effect. The Department consider that the use of this substance in the sewers of this Rural District would be most unwise bearing in mind that there are numerous sewer outfalls in the District and almost certainly the fluoroacetimide would find its way into ditches with possible danger to cattle, farm workers and children.

Details of the work of the Rodent Operative carried out during 1963 are as follows :—

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	62
No. of premises inspected and treated (private and business)	...	...	...	...	...	138
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	379
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	138
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	...	...	805
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	...	1042
No. of baiting points	3069

Quantity of Material Used.

Oatmeal with Warfarin	2239 lbs.
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Local Authority Undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	68
No. of visits and surveys made	103
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	72
No. of visits and surveys made	145

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